Level of disbursement by aid India consortium

1699. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has urged Aid India Consortium to increase the level of disbursement to India; and

(b) what is the extent of current disbursement as compared to the aid received in 1987, 1988 and 1989 and how it compares with that granted to Pakistan and Bangladesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The recommendations of the World Bank to the Aid India Consortium will be made at the Consortium meeting scheduled to be held in mid-June.

(b) The total aid received by India on Government Account and Non-Govt. Account during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 amounted to US $ 3860 million, and US $ 3634 and US $ 3573 Million respectively at the average exchange rates for the year. According to the latest World Development Report 1989 published by the World Bank, the net disbursement of ODA from all sources to Pakistan and Bangladesh in 1987 amounted to US $ 858 million and US $ 1637 million respectively. The figures for 1988 and 1989 are not yet published.

Increase in Imports

1700. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports during the past four months have risen by 26 percent over the imports for the corresponding period last year;

(b) what were the imports and exports figures during April-November and December-March 1989-90 and 1988-89 and how the trade deficit stood during that period; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to reduce the widening gap between imports and exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) and (b) The trade statistics are compiled on the financial year basis. The details of exports, imports and balance of trade during April-November 1989 and April-March 1989-90 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year are as under:-

(i) *April-November, 1988-89*

(Value: Rs.Crores)

	April-Nov. 1988 (P)	April-Nov 1989 (P)	%age change
Export	12200.70	16832.46	+38.0
Import	17706.21	21364.52	+20.7
Balance of trade	5505.51	4532.06	−17.7

(ii) *April-March, 1989-90*

	1988-89(P)	1989-90(P)	%age change
Export	20295.15	27681.47	+36.4
Import	28193.65	35411.88	+25.6
Balance of trade	−7898.50	−7730.41	−2.1

P : Provisional
Source : DGCI &S, Calcutta

(c) The Government has initiated a series of measures for increasing exports and containing imports in order to reduce the trade deficit. These are designed to make exports commercially viable through upgrading industrial efficiency, ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening infrastructure and simplifying the procedures. Simultaneously, steps have been taken to ensure efficient import